

Spring Forward

The Four Best Things You can do this Fall for Next Year's Spring Garden

As the crisp fall air ushers in a new season, many gardeners may be left wondering: what now? Garden experts from across the country weighed in with their tips on the four best things you can do this fall for a fabulous spring yard and garden.

PLANT NOW, BLOOM LATER

James Baggett, editor of *Better Homes & Gardens Perennials* magazine, suggests planning ahead. "An opportune time to start thinking about, and even working on, your spring garden is during fall," says Baggett.

"Perennials do best when they are planted in the early fall months because the soil is moist and the ground is warm but not too hot," he says. "Planting during fall is also a good way to get a jump start on gardening months in advance."



'Anemone Richard Ahrens' is a long-lasting, beautiful perennial that provides much needed color to the late summer and fall garden. Single and semi-double blooms open bright pink then soften to blush as the season progresses.

It is a perfect understory plant in areas with moist soil. This flower tops off between 24" and 36," is hardy in zones five through nine and requires partial shade.

Another perennial favorite is 'Verbascum Rosetta.' This perennial provides a vibrant new color from the verbascum plant family. Rosetta is covered with bright cherry-pink blooms all along its 18" to 36" flower spikes.

An extra-tough, drought-tolerant charmer, 'Verbascum Rosetta' is at home in both perennial borders and more naturalized settings, this flower grows in zones six through 8 and necessitates full



sun.

All the plants mentioned can be purchased through W. Atlee Burpee & Co. in retailers and by checking out www.burpee.com.

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES

“Fall is an excellent time for planting roses,” says Steve Hutton, plantsman and president of Conard-Pyle Co., the company known for introducing the first disease-resistant shrub rose - Knock Out™.

Establishing roses in the fall is an excellent way to ensure they'll be successful in the spring. Adds Hutton, “The weather and soil conditions are better in the fall, as opposed to spring when it tends to be muddy and wet.”

For fall color, Hutton recommends planting Knock Out™ shrub roses during the closing months of summer. The flowers will bloom well through the end of September in most hardiness zones.

“These plants are great for fall planting because they offer color throughout the entire season and bloom early the following spring,” says Hutton. For more information, visit www.starroses.com.

DEER-PROOF YOUR GARDEN

“Deer overpopulation is rampant in much of the country,” says James Messina of Messina Wildlife. “With no place to go, deer wander into backyards where they wreak havoc on shrubs, trees and gardens.”

“You need to protect your landscapes and gardens from deer so they're not destroyed,” says Messina. “And since most deer eat either in the early morning or late night hours, catching them in the act can be difficult.”

To keep deer out, many homeowners are turning to earth-friendly, omri-certified alternatives like Deer Stopper®. This organic repellent has no adverse effect on plants, people or animals and works by coating plants with an odor that smells pleasant to people but detracts deer.

For more information about Deer Stopper®, visit www.messinawildlife.com.

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